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**WELLINGTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
(SOMERSET)**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**for the Year 1950**

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**By HUGH MORRISON,**

**M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET).

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1950.

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Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Taunton  
Isolation Hospital and Taunton Sanatorium, Taunton.

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## WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

### Statistics for the Year, 1950.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,308
Census population, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,294
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£39,961
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£160 3s. 10d.

### Physical Character and Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212 ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293 ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into—(1) marl, (2) sandstone, (3) conglomerate, (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marl. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belongs to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted, cloth, serge, flock, bedding and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633—in 1921 it was 7,212—in 1931 it was 7,132, and in 1950 it is estimated to be 7,308.

### Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year, 1950.

Live Births.	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	103	58	45	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... .. 13.14
Illegitimate	3	2	1	
	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 46	

Still Births—Total ... nil

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births ... .. —

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... .. —

Deaths—Total ... 127

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... .. 17.38

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total ... nil

				Death Rates per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	nil
From other Maternal causes	...	...	...	nil



Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total ...	4								
Legitimate ... ..									4.00
Illegitimate ... ..									—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ...									37.64
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...									38.83
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...									—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..									21
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..									—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..									—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..									—
Rates for England and Wales as a whole :—									
Live Births per 1,000 civilian population ...									15.80
Still Births per 1,000 civilian population ...									0.37
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population ...									11.60
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...									0.86
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...									29.80

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis respiratory ... ..	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	1	1
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasms, uterus ... ..	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	6	4	10
Leukæmia, aleukæmia... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	6	13	19
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	5	5	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	2	2	4
Other Heart disease ... ..	16	4	20
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	3	6
Influenza ... ..	2	—	2
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	—	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ... ..	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	14	8	22
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	1	2	3
All other Accidents ... ..	3	2	5
Suicide ... ..	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
All causes—Total	68	59	127

### Infant Mortality during 1950.

The death of four infants under the age of one year giving an infantile mortality rate of 37.6 is compared with the rate for England and Wales, which was 29.8.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Cause of Death	Age at Death		Total
	Under 1 week	1—4 weeks	
Pulmonary Embolus ...	1	—	1
Birth Injury ...	—	1	1
Congenital Defect...	1	—	1
Shock from difficult Labour ...	1	—	1
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Domiciliary Services.

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and a good beginning has been made with the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council.

#### Hospital Services.

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—

**General Medical and Surgical.** The Taunton and Somerset Hospital, together with Musgrove Park Hospital, which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and Ear, Nose and Throat work. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to larger institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

**Infectious Diseases.** Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was administered up to the 4th July, 1948, by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various



districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date, administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management being carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. There are three large wards for the isolation and treatment of patients suffering from the commoner epidemic diseases, but these have become less useful since Diphtheria has become an immunisation campaign, and since Scarlet Fever has apparently entered a mild phase in which most of the cases can be successfully isolated and nursed at home. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in a more recently constructed cubicle block. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children, of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

**Tuberculosis.** Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physician for the area. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

**Poliomyelitis.** Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists, who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

**Small-pox.** Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made at a Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater. Fortunately there has been no need to use the institution for this purpose for many years.

**Chronic Sick.** Patients are received into Hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board. The status reputation of these institutions is improving, more or less rapidly, as their association with the less desirable features of the old Poor Law fades from public memory. A geriatric service for the Taunton area is in process of development. Legal powers are now available under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No formal action of this kind was required to be taken in the Urban District of Wellington during 1950 but one case was moved to hospital after preliminary steps to investigate the circumstances had been taken by the Medical Officer of Health.

**Mental Sick.** Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital, which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

**Tuberculosis.** Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Taunton Rural District.

**Venereal Disease.** A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. The centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

**Maternity and Child Welfare.** The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

**Laboratory Facilities.** The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as required by the County Analyst who has his Laboratory in Taunton.

**Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

**Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.** **National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.** No action has been taken under this Act. One case was removed in consequence of the action taken by a private practitioner.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supply.** This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton and a bore-hole at Pitt Farm. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer. The following is a chemical analysis of the raw water which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity.



						(All results in parts per million).
Physical characters	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Reaction	...	...	...	...	...	pH=7.3 slightly alkaline
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	363.0
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	...	...	...	...	250.0
Total hardness	...	...	...	...	...	215.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	185.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	30.0
Chlorine (in terms of Sodium Chloride)	...	...	...	...	...	35.0
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.006
Nitrogen as Albuminoid free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.058
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	4.0
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	...	...	...	...	...	
(4 hrs. at 80 deg. F.)	...	...	...	...	...	0.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	8.8
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	2.7
Sediment	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

No extensions of the water mains have been carried out during the year.

The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and as regards quantity the supply is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply.

Four samples of raw water on bacteriological examination gave good results. Of six samples of chlorinated water, taken from consumers' taps, which were bacteriologically examined, all gave satisfactory results. A sample from each of the following sources of supply has been chemically analysed : Westford Springs, Payton Springs and Pitt Farm Bore-hole. All gave satisfactory results but the degrees of hardness in each case is somewhat high.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the temporary hardness being 185.0, permanent hardness 30.0, and total hardness 215.0 parts per million.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows :—

(a) Water laid direct to houses	...	...	...	2,142
Population supplied	...	...	...	7,041
(b) Houses supplied by means of standpipes				95
Population supplied	do.	do.		310

There are 34 houses relying on well supplies in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.



**Sewage Disposal.** The Tone Sewage Works consist essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which flows on to sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It appears to be of Statutory quality and causes no nuisance in the River. The effluent when last examined, and its chemical analysis, shown as under, proves that the sample contained no excessive amount of suspended solids and absorbed no excessive amount of dissolved oxygen :—

(All results in parts per 100,000)

Physical characters

Liquid	...	...	...	...	...	...	Clear
Sediment	...	...	...	...	...	...	Very small
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Reaction	...	...	...	...	...	Slightly alkaline	pH 7.4
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Solids in suspension	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.2
Solids in solution	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.8
Nitrogen as free saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.72
„ Albinoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.2
„ Organic	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.5
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
4 hours at 80 deg. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.4
3 mins. at 80 deg. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
After 5 days incubation 65 deg. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.1
Putrescibility	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. During the year 1944 the existing sedimentation tank was converted into two settlement tanks, a dosing chamber was built together with a new 50 feet circular filter with revolving arms. There was also erected four sludge beds, each 23 feet by 14 feet and a pump house with a small petrol pumping unit. It is intended that these works shall deal with future developments in the Pyles Thorne area. It is not capable without further enlargement of dealing with any large scale development on the Priory Estate. The Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for enlargement of these works which has been accepted by the Council and approved by the Ministry of Health.

The proposals are based on a Dry Weather Flow of 33,000 gallons per day, or a population of 1,100 at 30 gallons per head per day. There will be provided two pyramidal sludge hoppers in the floor at the inlet end of each settlement tank. A storm water tank with a capacity of 8,250 gallons or 6 hours D.W.F., an additional filter bed, similar to the one existing, 50 ft. 6 inches diameter, and 4 ft. 9 inches average depth which will give a rate of filtration of 50 gallons per cubic yard at D.W.F. There are no humus tanks at present and it is proposed to construct two of a total capacity of 5,500 gallons or four hours D.W.F. Two new sludge beds will also be added, bringing the total area to 216 sq. yards, or 1 sq. yard for every 5 persons. New pumping plant will be provided to pump back the drainage from the sludge beds for re-treatment. This work is in progress and will provide a works capable of dealing with any reasonable developments which may take place in the next few years. This was not completed at the close of the year but it is hoped it will be in full operation early in 1951.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also any rain water that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works. In addition there is a winding stream which passes through the Town, known as the Town Stream. It is subject to pollution and discharges into the Tone.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District though not all closets have flushing cisterns. There are 29 dwellings which have water closets not connected to the sewer. With the exception of 10 houses at Spypost and Bagley and 5 at Westford and 5 at Payton, the others are large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated but from 8 dwellings at Westford slop waters enters the stream in an untreated state.

Thirty-eight houses are served by earth or chemical closets. These are in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

**Public Cleansing.** This is undertaken by direct labour and all premises are visited weekly. The type of refuse now produced has a very high unburnable content due to the increasing installation of improved solid fuel heating and cooking appliances by which much of the domestic refuse is consumed leaving burnt ashes, dust, tins and bottles etc. for disposal. This when fed to the refuse destructor is not easily destroyed and results in excessive clinkering. The destructor is incapable of dealing with the quantity of refuse now collected per day, approximately 9 tons, with the result that half this quantity has to be disposed of by tipping. The tip, which the Council share with the owner, will not be available after the middle of next year and the Council are giving serious consideration to the provision of another destructor or alternatively acquiring a suitable site where controlled tipping may be operated.

Trade refuse from business premises is collected weekly. Where business and living accommodation is combined one bin is collected free and thereafter a charge of 8d. per bin is made for the first three bins and 6d. for each additional bin. The size of the bin is restricted to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cu. ft.

In 1926 the Council built a single chamber forced draught destructor; this has been worked to full capacity for some years and is practically worn out.

**Eradication of Bed-bugs.** No Council Houses or other premises were found to be infested during the year.

**Offensive Trades.** There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**Camping Sites.** Under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, an application was received for a licence to use land as sites for 50 moveable dwellings. After due consideration by the Council the applicant was informed that the Council would be prepared to grant a licence for 25 sites subject to the conditions that an open space of 194 feet in depth be maintained from the highway to the sites and trees be planted to screen the sites, a 30 feet clinker road be constructed, a sanitary block be erected comprising of 5 water closets



and lavatory with wash basins for women and 2 water closets; urinal and lavatory with wash basins for men, that fire extinguishers and ash bins be provided and the water from the public supply be laid on to the sites by standpipes and to the sanitary block. These conditions have not yet been fully complied with and the licence has not been issued. There are no other camping sites in the District.

**Smoke Abatement.** Nuisances have arisen through the emission of smoke and grit from two industrial premises, and exhaustive enquiries and inspections were made. The assistance by the technical officers of the Ministry of Fuel and Power was given but no defects in the boilers, flues or methods employed were found. The cause was eventually traced to the poor quality of coal supplied and this was taken up with the Ministry of Fuel and Power and whilst no satisfactory undertaking was given that smokeless fuel would in future be supplied, there has been a considerable improvement in the volume and density of the smoke emitted.

**Schools.** The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be reasonably satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply and sewerage system.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.** There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public. It is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Ten samples of the water were taken, all of which were satisfactory. The great drawback to privately owned swimming pools is that proprietors are over inclined to study economy by conserving the use of sterilising agents and thereby making supervision more difficult.

The Local Authority has definite powers and control over privately owned swimming baths and pools, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

#### Nature and Number of Inspections during the year :—

Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	521
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	...	...	...	...	...	46
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	17

#### Number of Notices served during the year :—

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	56
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	0

#### Results of Notices served :—

Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	49
Notices standing over from 1949	...	...	...	...	...	7

#### Conditions remedied :—

Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective Sanitary Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	27
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	12
Provision of New Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	81

#### Disinfections were for the following conditions :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	5	Scarlet Fever	2
Cancer	...	...	3	Vermin	1



### Shop Act, 1950.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 63 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows :—

Repair and renewal of Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	9
Provision of additional Cloakroom facilities ... ..	2
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	3
Provision of additional Lighting and Ventilation ... ..	4
Limewashing ... ..	6
Abatement of Nuisances ... ..	12
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

It was not found necessary to take statutory action to get the above defects remedied and no action has been called for in relation to heating arrangements.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

#### URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON : 1950.

#### Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

#### PART I OF THE ACT.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health made by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	11	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	16	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	27	9	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects were discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Bakehouses.** There are four bakehouses in the District and 14 inspections were made of them. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply.

**Meat Supply.** Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter-houses, and the meat, after inspection, is distributed over a very large area. The slaughter-houses serving this District are situated in the Borough of Taunton and in the Taunton Rural District, where the Sanitary Inspectors of those Districts carry out inspection before distribution. This arrangement works very satisfactorily.

The number of animals killed for this district is not available as the slaughtering is carried out in Taunton Borough and Rural Districts. I am, therefore, unable to give information about the ante- and post-mortem inspection of animals or complete the table as asked for by the Ministry of Health, but no doubt this information will be included in the Reports for those two authorities.

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners :—

98 Tins of Meat.	1,055 lbs. of Butcher's Meat and
172 Tins of Fish.	Offal.
83 Tins of Milk.	6 lbs. of Bacon.
264 Tins of Fruit, Vegetable,	174 lbs. of Wet Fish.
Jam, Soup, etc.	61 lbs. of Cheese.

Up to 1939, there were seven Registered and two licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.

**Food Poisoning Outbreaks.** No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year under review.

**Clean Food.** During the year the Council adopted Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. A copy of these Bye-laws was sent to each food trader in the District. Inspections have been made of food premises and advice given on the Bye-laws and methods of improving conditions. It is pleasing to record that the Bye-laws have been well received and the majority of traders are willing to co-operate, particularly in the provision of hot water and washing facilities. A film show at which Ministry of Information films were shown on insect pests in food and clean food methods was given, followed by explanations and a talk by the Medical Officer of Health. Unfortunately, owing to a very heavy snowfall, the show was poorly attended.

**Milk Supply.** The inspections of Farms and Dairies and the taking of samples of Milk under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, 1943, were continued during the year.

Of the 16 farms in the District 10 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 6 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available.

Structural improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been continued to be made. Improvements such as new concrete floors, drainage, additional light and ventilation have been made without undue difficulty and it has not been necessary to serve notices to enforce this work.

Generally speaking the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

**Tuberculosis Order.** No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

#### **Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

Number of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	11
Number of Retailers	...	...	...	6

**Ice Cream.** The methylene-blue reduction test appears to be the simplest and most practicable single test for the routine grading of ice cream. During the year 15 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hall, Taunton, and classified as under :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	11
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	2
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	0



The quality of ice cream from any vendor is not assessed on the basis of a single sample; multiple samples are taken and a general opinion then formed. When results of samples are returned in Grades 3 or 4, visits to the premises are undertaken with a view to discovering the cause of the low grade. Invariably some source of contamination, or incomplete cleaning and sterilization of the plant is discovered. When precautions are taken on the advice given good results are usually produced.

Much of the low grading of ice cream is associated with faulty cleansing and sterilising of plant. The equipment used after the ice cream has been heat treated, namely cooler, storage tanks, freezer and pipes and valves going to the homogeniser, are the parts most likely to be the seat of the trouble.

## HOUSING.

The Council have been active in rehousing and have endeavoured to give preference to ex-Service persons living in rooms with children. This has not at all times been possible as cases have arisen which necessitated urgent action. The scheme under which the Council work for rehousing provides for persons without a separate home, occupying insanitary and overcrowded premises, having large families or families living under unsatisfactory housing conditions. There are far too many dwellings still occupied in Confirmed Clearance Areas which were condemned prior to 1939. Many of these premises are in a far worse state than when the Clearance Orders were made, as practically no maintenance work has been carried out on them and that which has been done has been a minimum. It is impracticable to ask owners to carry out extensive repairs when the premises are doomed to be demolished, and any amount of work carried out cannot make such dwellings reasonably fit.

The Council are anxious that these dwellings in Clearance Areas should be demolished but as no allocation of new houses is made for this purpose they are only able to proceed very slowly in the matter. They are, however, adopting the policy of not granting a licence for reoccupation where a family is rehoused from the worst of the clearance areas and asking the owner to carry out such work as to render the premises impossible to reoccupy short of demolishing. This is a piece-meal method of dealing with clearance areas as it must necessarily take some time before an area is rehoused and the site cleared.

It is however a step in the right direction and, until the Government sees fit to tackle slum clearance seriously again, the present rate of progress must be very slow.

The Council continue to hold premises under their requisitioning powers to house persons inadequately housed but are not requisitioning further condemned cottages except in exceptional circumstances. No large houses or camp hutments have been requisitioned during the year for conversion into separate units of accommodation.

The rent rebate scheme which was adopted in 1947 for the Council's housing estates continues to work satisfactorily and it is pleasing to record that the number of tenants who failed to obtain the requisite percentage and did not qualify for rebate this year was only 7 of a total of 482 dwellings. The rent rebate scheme allows tenants two weeks free rent for maintaining their houses in a good state of cleanliness and decoration. It is evident that the majority of tenants appreciate their amenities and take a keen interest in their houses, although, like all other local authorities, we have our "black spots," but I am pleased to say these are not many and not very serious. These "black spots" are to some extent unavoidable having regard to the various types of families for which the Council must of necessity provide accommodation.

**Housing Act, 1949.** Under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, a grant has been approved to the owner for the conversion of stabling into a dwelling house. This work is in hand and will be completed in 1951. With the maximum expenditure restricted to £600 per dwelling and the rising cost in building labour and material it is increasingly difficult to reconstruct dwellings or convert other buildings into living accommodation to comply with the Act for purposes of a grant. Until the maximum cost is increased it is practically impossible for owners of suitable properties to obtain a grant for conversion or reconstruction with the necessary improvements. Four cottages which are suitable, and which the owners would like to improve with the aid of a grant, have had to be deferred owing to the impossibility of complying with the Act on present-day costs. In this case the owners are not in a position adequately to improve the cottages without financial assistance and the restriction on building costs and rents renders this impossible.

The following sites have been or will be acquired by the Council :—

**Longforth Site.**—14.44 acres. Works of roads and sewers completed and houses in course of erection. This site is nearly fully built on.

**Oaken Ground Site, Rockwell Green.**—6.21 acres. Work has commenced on the erection of non-traditional houses.

**The Priory Site.**—16 acres (approx.). Negotiations are in progress for its acquisition.

**Site Between "Wardleworth" and Crosslands Terrace, Tonedale.**—3.5 acres. This site has been acquired and lay-out plans approved.

Houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, continue to be occupied by temporary licences issued to the owners for re-occupation. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Section 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the acute housing shortage and is covered by Regulation 68a Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them into such condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used, as a temporary measure, for housing purposes without detriment to health.

Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the re-occupation of a house and the rent to be charged, but the licence is not operative for more than six months without renewal.



The following table shows the number of the houses owned by the Council and which are occupied under the Various Acts :—

### HOUSING (ASSISTED SCHEME) ACT, 1919.

Address.	No. of Houses
Longforth Road (Parlour Type) ... ..	14

### HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1924.

Longforth Road (Parlour Type) ... ..	18
Church Fields (Parlour Type) ... ..	42
Victoria Street (Parlour Type) ... ..	8
Alexandra Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	32
Olands Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	24
Lower Foxmoor Road (Parlour Type) ... ..	16
Pope's Lane (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	16
Crosslands (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	14

### HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Brendon Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	52
Quantock Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	34
Quantock Road (1 Bedroom Flats) ... ..	12
Greenway Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	28
Greenway Road (1 Bedroom Flats) ... ..	8
Church Green (1 Bedroom Flats) ... ..	8
Blackdown Road (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	24
Blackdown Road (1 Bedroom Flats) ... ..	12
Tone View (Cornish Unit) ... ..	10
Howard Road { (Non-Parlour Type) ... ..	36
{ (Parlour Type) ... ..	10
{ (1-Bedroom Flats) ... ..	8
{ (2-Bedroom Flats) ... ..	4
Parklands Road { (Cornish Units) ... ..	22
{ (Non-Parlour) ... ..	12
{ Non-Traditional (Woolaway) ... ..	14
{ (2-Bedroom Flats) ... ..	4
Total ... ..	<u>482</u>

Of the above 114 houses and 20 flats were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936.



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES	TOTAL	AGE GROUP								No. admitted to Isolation Hospital
		0 —	1 —	3 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	25 and over	Not known	
Measles ... ..	31	—	7	10	12	2	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough ... ..	28	2	6	6	13	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	4
	67	2	13	18	28	3	1	1	1	7

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births.

DISEASES	No. OF NOTIFICATIONS	RATES FOR	
		Wellington U.D.	England and Wales
Measles ... ..	31	4.24	8.39
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	0.54	1.50
Whooping Cough ... ..	28	3.83	3.60
Poliomyelitis ... ..	4	0.54	0.18

**Diphtheria Prophylaxia.** For the tenth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. There is no doubt that this can be largely attributed to the immunisation campaign which has been in progress for the past ten years. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of antigen before he begins school attendance.

The following figures show how immunisation is progressing in this District from the commencement of the Scheme.

Number of children who had completed full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
<i>Year of Birth</i>	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1941-1945	1936-1940	
<i>Number Immunised</i>	1	43	65	128	110	248	227	822

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table :—

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods				M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—
5—15	...	...	1	—	1	—	—
15—20	...	...	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	1	3	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	1	1	—	—	—
55—65	...	..	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	...	...	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	5	6	1	1	—

At the end of the year there were 41 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 8 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating in this District.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. This power is exercised by the County Council and Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, must be notified by the notifying practitioner direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority (which in this case is the County Council) under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937. Prompt and early treatment is thus obtained and most of the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.